The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor generally in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1752 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1944 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 34, NO. 45

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

They used to say that the pen is mightier than the sword. Today the pen is giving way to a more powerful weapon—the spoken word. The air is filled with a number of things in these troubled days, but the most cogent and persuasive are the voices that come to us over the radio.

From now on some of these voices will be spokesmen for the American Federation of Labor. Recognizing the increasing significance of radio in molding public opinion, the AFL executive council has launched the most comprehensive program of radio activity in its history for 1945. It will report to the American people each week over a nationwide network.

One of the significant aspects of the scheduled AFL radio program is the fact that the time is being made available to labor free of charge by the four major networks.

These networks are business organizations operating for profit. They try to sell time, not give it away. But, strangely enough, their own self-imposed rules permit a few of these broadcasting companies to donate time to labor's membership, although no such limitations are placed on commercial advertisers.

How It Happened

In recognition of the important place which labor holds in the life of the nation, the radio networks believe that the trade union movement should be given the opportunity to have its say over the air.

However, the radio industry didn't fully realize this until it was called forcefully to its attention. Except for the National Broadcasting Company, none of the networks in the past provided any regular time for labor, although they did carry an occasional pro-labor speech.

Meanwhile, in the past few years, radio commentators on programs sponsored by big business have enjoyed a field day, slamming labor from pillar to post, regularly and at will.

This condition was blasted by the protests of a comparatively small and obscure labor paper in upstate New York—to wit, Rochester and Vicinity Labor. The publisher of this paper, Jack Cadden, took vigorous umbrage against the remarks of a particular commentator who declared, contrary to the established facts, that nonunion labor had a better safety record in the aviation industry than union labor.

The AFL took up Mr. Cadden's protest and pressed it home. The discussions that followed with leaders of the radio industry were very interesting. They acknowledged that labor had been receiving unfair treatment on the air and, to their credit, they promised to do something about it.

The radio industry has now made good on its promise and the AFL therefore is more than willing to give it praise for a new and more cooperative policy.

Facing Final Fact

Presentation of a regular weekly radio program fifty-two weeks a year over a national network is quite a job, and the AFL knew from the start that it has no trained staff of radio experts like commercial advertisers.

The assignment has fallen to yours truly who therefore must drop some other duties to meet the inexorable radio deadlines.

It is with regret that we find it necessary to relinquish the pleasant task of writing this weekly column.

"Facing the Facts" made its bow on May 27, 1929, and has appeared regularly in the AFL Weekly News Service since then. Like all other items in the news service it was offered free of charge to the labor press. As a result, surprisingly large numbers of labor publications took to the habit of publishing it regularly.

We've just been looking over the first column, which was in the nature of a prospectus, to ascertain with unbiased judgment—if possible—how far we fell short of our original intentions. In at least a couple of respects, we feel pleased guilty. For instance, we promised in the beginning not to get rough and we're afraid we let our feelings run away with us on a few occasions. Also, we pledged not to pose as oracles of wisdom and we seem to recall venturing some statements that were a bit sweeping.

However, we called our shots as we saw them and we have no apologies to offer for anything ever included in this column.

And now, good-bye and good luck to all of you.

Full Post-War Employment Sought By Canadian Labor Convention

Ottawa, Can.—The Canada Trades and Labor Congress highlighted its "diamond jubilee" convention at Toronto with a demand for full post-war employment.

A sweeping program of social and economic reform was also called for, and notice was served of a determination to fight, hammer and tongs, for justice for Canadian workers.

Backing up to the hilt this stand, the "Parliament of Labor" broke new ground and overwhelmingly adopted a resolution instructing the incoming officers to take under advisement the setting up of a national non-partisan political committee, in line with the policy so long pursued by the American Federation of Labor in the United States.

This action was significant, for a number of reasons, among them that greater store is placed on party allegiance in the Dominion, that Canada does not have the primary, and that previous conventions there have been suggestions that a separate labor party be established, following the pattern set in Great Britain.

In the words of President Percy R. Bengough, the Congress henceforth is not going to be "the dog behind the gun" as it has been in the past.

Among the demands voiced by the delegates were shorter hours with no reduction in wages and a 30-hour week as the ultimate goal; creation of conciliation committees with labor representation; broader social security, public ownership of utilities and the encouragement of farmer-labor unity.

The Congress unanimously condemned the statement by Vice President Paul Fournier of Montreal that "some unions and whole sections" of the Congress were under Communistic control. The rebuke was made more emphatic by the defeat of Fournier for re-election.

President Bengough and Secretary-Treasurer J. A. Sullivan were retained by acclamation, and these vice presidents were chosen: Carl R. Berg of Edmonton, J. W. Buckley of Toronto, J. A. d'Aoust of Montreal, Birt Showler of Vancouver and J. A. Whitehouse.

Capt. Martin Is Elected President Of Masters, Mates And Pilots Union

Washington, D. C.—Winding up the biennial convention of the Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, delegates elected as their new president Captain Harry Martin of New York, who began his sea-going career on an old-time sailing vessel at the age of 15.

Martin succeeds Captain James J. Delaney, veteran officer of the union who passed away less than a month before the convention.

Starting as a deck hand before the mast 56 years ago, Martin later shifted to steam-propelled craft, advancing to a captaincy at the age of 26. For 17 years he commanded ships running to all parts of the world.

He began work in 1939, at which time he became president of the Big Load 66 in the port of New York. In 1940 he was elected secretary and business manager and in the same year was named a national trustee also. He played a major role in campaigns to bring the port solidly under the union's banner and in 1942 controversy he was elevated to national vice president.

By acclamation, the convention also re-elected Captain John J. Scully, 77-year-old silver-haired "dean" of the organization, as secretary-treasurer. Scully voiced a desire to retire and hand over the reins to a younger man, but the delegates would have none of that.

They not only insisted he remain in harness, but voted him a substantial increase in salary. Secretary-Treasurer for over a quarter century and a vice president before that, Scully has been with the union since 1913 and He has the vigor and alertness of a business manager and in the same year many years his junior.

CHAPMAN TO SERVE AS ZANDER'S AIDE

Madison, Wis.—President Arnold S. Zander, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, announced the appointment of Secretary-Treasurer Gordon W. Chapman to the position of Executive Assistant to the President of the union.

The change was approved by the union's Executive Board to relieve Mr. Zander of some of his routine duties and give him more time for organization and negotiation with public officials and in work with the general labor movement. The Executive Board named H. E. Collier of El Paso, Tex., to fill Mr. Chapman's post as Secretary-Treasurer.

Departmental Meetings Set Stage For 64th Annual Convention of AFL

New Orleans.—Delegates began arriving here for the meetings of the three AFL departments which serve as curtain raisers for the 64th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Departmental conventions will be held by the Metal Trades, beginning Nov. 13; the Building and Construction Trades, opening Nov. 15, and the Union Label Trades, scheduled for Nov. 17. The AFL convention will follow on Nov. 20.

Each of the departmental conventions will bring to this city speakers of national prominence, including military and naval leaders, War Production Board officials, heads of administrative agencies of the Government and labor leaders.

AFL President William Green is scheduled to address both the Building Trades and the Union Label Trades conventions.

Topping the list of those invited to speak at the AFL convention is President Roosevelt. In past years, however, the President has contented himself with sending a message to the convention and, in view of the war emergency, it is expected he will continue that practice this year as well.

High representatives of the War and Navy Departments will attend the convention and messages are expected from Gen. Eisenhower and other military and naval leaders.

Among those who have accepted invitations already to speak at the AFL convention are Secretary of Labor Perkins, Assistant Secretary Daniel W. Tracy, War Manpower Commission Chairman Paul V. McNutt, OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, U. S. Senator James M. Mead of New York, National Commander of the American Legion Edward N. Scheiberling, ILO Director Edward J. Phelan, WPB Vice Chairman Joseph D. Keenan and President James G. Patton of the National Farmers Union.

Ship Workers Reply To War Needs Is Record Output Of 145 Vessels

Washington, D. C.—Delivery in October of 145 ships, 53 for military use, is the answer of shipbuilding workers to pleas of Naval and Maritime officials for more rapid production of assault vessels, the United States Maritime Commission announced.

The 145 ships of 1,210,000 deadweight tons delivered during October boosted the year's production from Commission yards to 1,378 vessels and 12,555,878 deadweight tons.

Of the 92 vessels delivered to the armed forces, over half are for use as combat-loaded transports, some as combat-loaded cargo ships and Navy transports. Eleven others delivered were Naval tankers, frigates, and Army transports.

Thirty of the ships were of the Commission's long-range fast type and included seven Victory cargo, five C4-type cargo, and 18 standard tankers. Others delivered during October were: 51 Liberty cargo, nine coastal cargo, one concrete cargo and one concrete barge.

East and West Coast yards built 50 vessels each, while Gulf Coast yards turned out 36 ships and the Great Lakes yards delivered 9 vessels.

AFL Metal Trades Unions Win Fight To Protect Rates For Repair Work

San Francisco.—AFL Metal Trades unions on the Pacific Coast have won a long battle against attempts by "brass hats" to chop down wages due workers in ship repair yards and at dry docks.

The issue was settled at a zone conference held here under auspices of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, which is composed of government, labor and industry representatives.

Under resolutions adopted by the conference, all work done on ships in repair yards or drydock will come under the "repair rate" established in the West coast master agreement between unions and shipyard managements. That rate for workers is 11.6 per cent higher than the scale paid employes in yards building new ships.

On and off for the past year or two, representatives of the War and Navy Departments and Maritime Commission have sought to undermine the "repair rate." They tried to wipe out the 11.6 per cent differential for work done at repair yards in converting new ships to uses other than originally planned, and also to lower wages similarly for completed ships which are put into drydock for a final going over.

These attempts stirred bitter resentment among Pacific coast unionists and only through vigorous efforts of union leaders were strikes averted. An effort to bring about a settlement at a meeting of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee two months ago collapsed when representatives of the army, navy and Maritime Commission —several of them former executives of shipyards—balked the parley.

Protests to top officials of the agencies in Washington brought a change of heart, however, and at the latest conferences in San Francisco the protracted dispute was finally ironed out.

Meanwhile, the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council, representing 400,000 shipyard workers, wired President Roosevelt demanding that a national conference be called on the over-all wage increase for the nation's shipbuilding employes.

The telegram pointed out that at a similar national parley in Chicago two months ago the labor members made less of an increase than they were entitled to on the promise of the administration that a seven-point stabilization program, including rigid control of prices and profits, would be carried out.

The administration agreed that if such over-all stabilization was not achieved wage rates of the ship workers would be reviewed. The Pacific Coast Council, in its telegram, insisted that the pledge for such a review should be redeemed.

Consumers Spend More, Get Less, Commerce Dep't Survey Discloses

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Commerce revealed that Americans this year will spend $67,000,000,000 in retail stores, or an average of $510 for every man, woman and child. That is an all-time high figure.

Paradoxically, though shoppers never spent that much before, they received for their money less goods than were passed over counters in 1939 or 1941, the department said.

If consumers could have had been able to obtain the same amount of goods available in 1941, they would have had to spend $87,000,000,000 instead of $67,000,000,000, and the per capita expenditure would have been $664 instead of $510.

In 1941, for a greater amount of goods, the per capita expenditure was $427. In 1939 it was $390.

The department said that rising prices accounted for about 70 per cent of the increase in dollar sales from 1939.

Per capita expenditures this year are more than 100 per cent greater than in 1939. If 70 per cent of the increase is due to rising prices, as the department contends, consumers are paying about 70 per cent more to live, or considerably in excess of the amount organized labor has contended.

HEALTH INSURANCE ENDORSED IN POLL

Washington, D. C.—An overwhelming majority of Americans favor inclusion of health insurance in our social security system, the National Public Opinion Research Institute of Denver reported as the result of a nationwide poll.

Ninety-two per cent of those queried declared something should be done to make medical care easier, and 63 per cent wanted the government to do it through supplement of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, liberalizing social security.

This bill was drafted by the AFL and introduced as a result of the Federation's campaign for a stronger social security system.

NHA CHIEF SEES NEED OF 12 MILLION HOMES

Washington, D. C.—Construction of 12,500,000 non-farm houses and apartment units will be required in the first ten years after the war to meet the needs of America's families and to make substantial strides in replacing substandard structures with modern homes, NHA estimates.

The estimate, according to NHA Administrator John B. Blandford, Jr., is "an earnest effort to judge the size of the nation's housing job—not an overoptimistic bet of a prophet."

Blandford said replacement of all substandard structures would require 5,000,000 units in all, but NHA figures were based on the assumption that replacement would be spread over a 20-year period.

25,000 SHIPYARD WORKERS NEEDED

Washington, D. C.—West Coast shipbuilding and naval repair yards must have an additional 25,000 workers this month to meet urgent accelerating military orders, Paul V. McNutt, War Manpower Commissioner, said.

Another 2,000 shipyard workers are needed for naval repair work at Pearl Harbor, he added.

FREE CARTOONS OFFERED TO AFL LABOR PRESS

New York City.—A second series of Godal cartoons exposing the enemy propaganda against which we are fighting is now available in mat form free of charge to labor press.

Those desiring to use the cartoons should write for mats to the No-Strike Editor, Plate Co., 220 W. 19th St., New York 18, N. Y.

Green Hails Vote Results As Triumph For Labor

War Department Cites Fred Umhey For Fine Services To War Effort

Washington, D. C.—Frederick F. Umhey, Executive Secretary of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, on October 30 was awarded the certificate for Meritorious Civilian Service for assisting the War Department "during a critical period in the mobilization and expansion of war industry." The award was presented by Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War.

Mr. Umhey has served during the past three and a half years as a member of a special board to advise the Under Secretary on the issuance of "Necessity Certificates" which expedited the building by private industry of five billion dollars worth of new facilities for munitions production.

In presenting the award, Mr. Patterson said:

"You have responded to every call made upon you by the War Department, serving without glory or compensation and without regard to personal considerations in frequent and often protracted absence from your home and normal duties. By your self-sacrificing efforts, you have made an important contribution to the marshalling of our industrial resources for war. You have earned the profound appreciation of the War Department."

The citation accompanying the award says, in part:

"As consultant to the War Department, he assisted significantly during a critical period in the mobilization and expansion of war industry, thus advancing our armies and those of our allies on the road to ultimate victory."

Steelman Resigns Effective Nov. 25 As Head Of Conciliation Service

Washington, D. C.—John R. Steelman, director of the United States Conciliation Service, has resigned, effective November 25.

Steelman, who served as head of the service's unit of the Department of Labor, for the past 7 years stated that he had made no definite plans for his future except to take a month's vacation—his first in 10 years.

It was understood that Steelman has before him proposals to take industrial relations jobs in several basic industries, as well as teaching offers from two large universities.

During his tenure, Steelman transformed the conciliation service from an industrial relations "fire department" which customarily called in to settle a strike to an agency which has devoted most of its time to settling disputes before they reach the strike stage.

Approximately 90 per cent of all wartime labor disputes which came before the Government were settled by the conciliation service.

Steelman taught at Vanderbilt, Harvard, and Alabama College before joining the conciliation service in 1934.

No successor to Steelman was announced.

Under Steelman, five administrative regions with 25 field offices have been set up. In 1938, about 57 per cent of the 1200 cases involving 1,383,000 workers handled by the service were strikes. Of the 25,000 cases involving 12 million workers, handled in the year ended June 30, 1944, only 11 per cent were strike cases.

In accepting the resignation which was tendered originally July 1, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins praised Steelman for stressing "the development and promotion of good industrial relations between labor and management."

"A larger and larger part of the work of the service," Miss Perkins said, "has been advising and the preventive of strikes and stoppages of work, as compared to the use of the service only for handling a strike after the event."

AFL-Endorsed Candidates Win In Most Congressional Contests

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green hailed the election results not only as a mandate for President Roosevelt but for basic issues in which labor is vitally interested.

Isolationism, he declared, was overwhelmingly rejected by the American people, while such goals as quick victory and jobs for all in the post-war period were "endorsed by the nation."

To win these goals, Mr. Green called upon all Americans, regardless of party affiliation, to wash out campaign antagonisms and unite for victory in the war and in the peace.

Particularly gratifying, Mr. Green declared, were the results of most Congressional contests, which showed that most of the candidates endorsed by the AFL in accord with its non-partisan political policy triumphed.

Another big break for labor came when the voters of California by an indicated two to one majority defeated the proposed State Constitutional amendment banning the union shop.

(An extra edition went to press, so conclusive returns on the fate of similar proposals in Florida and Arkansas were available).

The text of Mr. Green's comment on the election, phoned from his home in Ohio where he went to vote, follows:

"The results of the election constitute a mandate not only for the President and his party but for certain basic issues.

"The American people in this election have overwhelmingly rejected isolationism. That should be clear to everyone and it is the only possible augury for the establishment of lasting peace based upon international cooperation.

"Both major tickets promised to drive forward to victory in this war in the shortest possible time and to press for a program of economic security, with jobs for all, in the post-war period. These major goals, therefore, have been endorsed by acclamation.

"To attain them, however it is vital that both sides forget and forgive the bitterness engendered by the political campaign and that all Americans march forward united as never before toward prompt victory and enduring peace.

"It is still too early to judge definitely the outcome of contests for Congress but the returns now in show that an overwhelmingly large number of candidates endorsed by the American Federation of Labor, in accordance with its non-partisan political policy have won."

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETS

Pictured above are the members of the AFL Executive Council who will report to the Convention Nov. 20 on the big issues facing the nation.

WAR DEPARTMENT HONORS AFL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Washington, D. C. — Private First Class Roy E. Moffet, an AFL building trades worker, has been awarded the Silver Star, high Army medal, for courageous and tireless efforts in aiding wounded soldiers in the face of heavy enemy fire in Italy, the War Department announced. Pfc. Moffet's father, Roy E. Moffet, of Salina, Kan., is a veteran of World War I and proud of the honor awarded his son.

Son Roy, though only 21 now, before entering the Army worked for the Tarlton & McDonald Construction Company in Salina.

The War Department citation for Pfc. Moffet reads:

"On December 21, 1943, during a Mediterranean campaign, when his company was ordered to withdraw from a hill under intense enemy shelling, he was assigned the task of furnishing supplies and ammunition to the covering forces remaining on the hill. The enemy's vicious attack inflicted many casualties on the withdrawing troops, and he voluntarily left his cover to evacuate the wounded from the hill. Although he had not slept in 32 hours, he disregarded personal danger and, constantly exposed to enemy fire, and valor."

VFW STATE COMMANDER HAILS LABOR'S RECORD

Portland, Ore.—Strong support of labor's war record was given by State Commander Peter Frederickson of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the department's official publication, "The American Veteran." He wrote:

"The principle behind the VFW and union labor is the same—namely, to work for the purpose of securing by united strength rights and conditions which we could never secure as individuals."

Criticizing attempts to "smear" labor for wartime strikes, he declared that "a careful analysis would show that many of them were the direct result of action by the employing companies."

He of the VFW have refused to damn the entire labor movement because of a few isolated instances of "chaos," he said.

POST-WAR GOALS AIDED BY UNION LABEL DRIVE

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.—Solution of post-war economic problems will be advanced by the purchase of products bearing the union label, I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, declared in a broadcast here.

Mr. Ornburn was interviewed by Marvy Folaner, Secretary-Treasurer of the Upper Great Lakes District of the Seafarers' International Union, who conducts a regular radio program for union seamen over Station WSOO.

WORKERS GIVE TIME FOR SERVICEMEN'S CENTER

San Diego, Cal.—Each Sunday members of the AFL Building Trades Council will work renovating the Knights of Columbus servicemen's center.

Drawing out in answer to a call for volunteer labor, the building trades workers expect to devote 8,000 man-hours of labor to the job of converting the center into a trim, comfortable meeting place for lonely soldiers and sailors. The building will have a large assembly hall, conference room, play room and living quarters for a caretaker.